

Message Text

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53

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-07 COME-00 ACDA-05 IO-10

ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /075 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DHCLARE

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

ARA/PLC:SQUIGG

PM/SAS:GSWEENY

PM/MC:BFEMNINELLA

DOD/ISA:LMAYS

----- 041506

O 101307Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214868

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, GT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF COLT FIREARMS REPRESENTATIVE

REF: (A) GUATEMALA 4809; (B) USDAO 052130Z SEP 75

1. SYMINGTON OF COLT HAS SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES TO OFFICER IN ARA/PLC-PM REGARDING TRIP TO GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND EL SALVADOR. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT NEED MC LICENSE SINCE HE WAS NOT DEMONSTRATING WEAPONS OR DIVULGING TECHNICAL DATA.

2. ON BALANCE WE BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE NOT TO OFFER AN ADVISORY OPINION ON PROSPECTIVE M-16 SALE UNTIL MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE. WE WOULD HOPE AS RESULT OF
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SYMINGTON'S CONTACTS TO OBTAIN BETTER FEEL FOR RATIONALE,

SIZE AND URGENCY OF TRANSACTION, AS WELL AS ALTERNATE
PLANS SHOULD COLT'S LICENSE BE DELAYED OR DISAPPROVED.

3. FURTHERMORE, NEGATIVE ADVISORY OPINION WOULD GIVE
GUATEMALANS PRETEXT TO SEEK OTHER SUPPLIERS AT ONCE. WE
WISH TO POSTPONE THIS LIKELIHOOD FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT GOG IS SEEKING CHANNELS TO CONVEY
THEIR BELIZE POSITION TO US AND VIEW M-16 GAMBIT AT LEAST
IN PART AS ANOTHER SUCH EFFORT. IN MEETINGS WITH

SYMINGTON WE WOULD BE LOOKING FOR INSIGHTS INTO GUATEMALAN
INTENTIONS RE BELIZE. WITHOUT UNDUE SPECULATION AS TO
WASHINGTON'S PROBABLE REACTION TO PROPOSED SALE YOU SHOULD
REITERATE OUR STRONG HOPE THAT ARMED FORCE NOT BE EMPLOYED
AGAINST BELIZE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, SALES, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE214868
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DHCLARE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750313-0269
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750963/aaaacdml.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GUATEMALA 4809
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF COLT FIREARMS REPRESENTATIVE
TAGS: MILI, BTRA, GT
To: GUATEMALA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006